IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (previously presented): The process according to claim 29, wherein said active ingredient is a β-agonist selected from the group consisting of salbutamol, formoterol, salmeterol, terbutaline and salts thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The process according to claim 29, wherein said active ingredient is a steroid selected from beclomethasone dipropionate, flunisolide, budesonide and the epimers thereof.

Claims 16-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 37, wherein said coarse carrier particles have a starting diameter between 90 to 150 μm and said fine ~~fraction of said~~ carrier particles ~~has~~ have a mean aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 μm.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 37, wherein ~~the~~ said mixing is carried out in a mixer ~~is~~ selected from those with a stationary or rotating body equipped with a rotatory element.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 37, wherein ~~the mixer is~~ said mixing is carried out in a sigma blade mixer and the rate of mixing is comprised between 100 and 300 r.p.m.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 37, wherein ~~the~~ said mixing is carried out for a time of ~~said carrier particles ranges~~ from 5 to 360 minutes.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The process according to Claim 37, wherein ~~the~~ said mixing is carried out for a time ~~is~~ of 30 minutes.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 37, wherein said carrier particles consist of one or more saccharides.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 37, wherein said carrier particles consist of α-lactose monohydrate.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 37, which yields a fraction of said carrier particles whose variation of the starting mean aerodynamic diameter is less than 20%.

Claims 26-27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (currently amended): A process according to Claim 37, wherein after said ~~treatment~~ mixing, one or more active ingredients, whose particles have a mean diameter of less than 5 μm, are added to the carrier.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A process according to Claim 28, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of steroids, β_2 agonists, anticolinergics, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (canceled).

Claim 31 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 19, wherein said rotating element is a blade or screw.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 19, wherein said mixer is a high-shear mixer.

Claims 33-35 (canceled).

Claim 36 (previously presented): The process according to Claim 29, wherein said active ingredient is an anticolinergic selected from the group consisting of ipratropium bromide and oxytropium bromide.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a dry powder formulation for the pulmonary administration of a micronized drug by means of a dry powder inhaler, said process comprising mixing coarse carrier particles having a ~~starting~~ diameter which lies between 20 and 1000 μm with fine carrier particles having a diameter of less than 10 μm~~, wherein said mixing step is carried out in a mixer with a stationary or rotating body~~

~~equipped with a rotating element or in a high energy mixer~~ and magnesium stearate in an amount of 0.05 to 2%.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The process according to claim 37, wherein said ~~fine carrier particles are produced in situ~~ mixing is carried out in a mixer with a stationary or rotating body equipped with a rotating element or in a high energy mixer.

Claim 39 (new): The process according to claim 37, wherein said powder formulation has a Carr's Index of less than 25.